

**Minors Engaged in Commercial Sex:**  
**Working Scenario Background**

*Child's Name: Laura*

*No known mental health diagnosis*

*No previous criminal history*

**Relevant History:**

Laura is a 16-year-old Caucasian female. She was raised by her mother in a single-parent home since birth. She does not know her biological father, and he has not been engaged in her care. Laura lived with her mother and her mother's boyfriend beginning at age 11.

Laura began skipping school and presenting with behavioral issues in her junior high years. Laura was caught shoplifting from the local department store. Laura's mom discovered, on more than one occasion, alcohol and marijuana in Laura's room. Laura became much more isolated from her peer group. Despite the fact that she had poor school attendance, she was smart enough to maintain passing grades.

At 14, Laura started dating a man in his mid-20s and became sexually active with him towards the end of her freshman year. At 15, one weekend while Laura's mom is away with her boyfriend, Laura hosted a party at their house. The party got out of control and neighbors called the police. The police arrived and contacted Laura's mom because of all the minors and alcohol present. Police officers agreed to not file any charges if mom was able to get home and sort everything out.

School administration meetings with mom reveal that on the days Laura was missing school, she had left home the night before and did not return home until the following evening. Mom believes that Laura resents mom's boyfriend, and reports that Laura has fabricated stories of sexual advances by mom's boyfriend as a way of driving a wedge into their relationship. Mom states that Laura is out of control, and asks what can be done about her. Mom gives the impression that if Laura was out of her life everything would fine, and wants to know what her options are to get her out of the house.

A school counselor familiar with Laura reports she has become socially isolated, and that rumor mill at school indicates she is hanging with a new crowd, has multiple boyfriends, is defiant to authority figures at school. Laura seems very into her new boyfriend, although she had not told counselor much about him other than he is older, has money and can take care of her. Teachers have reported Laura is wearing more provocative clothing and wearing heavy make-up, a dramatic change in her appearance from last year.

Laura's social media account is visible to the public, and shows sexually promiscuous pictures, an older male boyfriend, pictures of money, pictures of manicured nails, selfie in a hotel room, and indicates she has older adult female friends. In addition, her account uses a nickname not known by school administration,

In an interview with Laura, she reports to the CPS worker that mom's boyfriend sexually molested her from ages 12 to 14. Laura is being removed from her home because her mother refused to enter into a safety plan and told the CPS worker to take her because she was no longer welcome there. Her mother refuses to cooperate in providing contact information for relatives so an approved foster care placement has been identified while the agency attempts to locate relatives.

Questions:

1. Identify if potential warning signs or red-flags of a minor engaged in commercial sex exist; compile a list of all potential red-flags for Laura.
2. If trafficking is suspected, identify next steps.
3. What are possible placement options for Laura? Develop a list and identify the pros and cons to each placement option.
4. What are the key intervention priorities and what services would be beneficial to Laura?